

Actual and Potential Austrian Precursors of Slovenian Perfins

Bob Schwerdt (#505-L)

It was really “Cilli” (no pun intended), the way the entire matter got started and eventually led to the article you are now reading.

While Bob Szymanski was visiting recently, a fortuitous event occurred while we were searching for bullseye postmarks (SON) to help fill some blank spaces in Bob’s calendar collection. An Austrian beauty was noted with a “Cilli” postmark and full date. The perfin was MADJIC. Because of Bob’s ancestry and wide geographical knowledge, he said “I’ll bet that is Celje, Slovenia.” The dictionary proved he was correct.

After Bob departed, I realized that if there was one perfin with a Slovenian connection, there might be more. At one time the territory inhabited by the Slovenes was controlled by Austria. We know that many Austrian perfins are found with postmarks of

Prague and Trieste, areas once controlled by the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

For this article, the Slovenian perfins under consideration are Scott’s types A1 through A9—four designs in several sizes depicting breaking chains, allegories of freedom, and King Peter I.

I checked the Austrian perfin catalog for Slovenian postmarks. John Nussbickel, compiler of this catalog back in 1991, was helpful with this project. It is a big advantage to learn that the Austrian town Laibach becomes (in Slovenian) Ljubljana and Marburg becomes Maribor. Mr. Nussbickel estimated that there might be twenty Austrian perfin types used in Slovenian towns. My research revealed 22 such towns. They are shown in the first chart accompanying this article.

Actual and potential Austrian precursors of Slovenian perfins

Perfin Design	Austrian Perfin Cat#	Austrian Spelling of Slovenian Town	WPC Slovenia Cat#	Slovenian Spelling of Town Name	Scheper’s List?	Comments
A.K./L.	A126	LAIBACH	A1	LJUBLJANA	√	See <i>TPB</i> #6 2004
CATER	C14	CILLI	---	CELJE	√	
CMST (Monogr)	C69	CILLI	A4	CELJE	√	Note 1
D.R.	D47	CILLI	A5	CELJE	√	
Dr.F.Z.	D49	PRAG?	A5.1	CELJE	√	
E.S.	E96	PRISTOVA	A7	PRISTA	√	
F.Z.	F133	CILLI	A8	CELJE	√	
H.G.	H39	RUDOLFSWORTH	---	RADOVLJIC A		
H.V.	H110	MARBURG	---	MARIBOR		
J.O.+C.	J166	(no town listed)	---	DOMZALE	√	DALMATIA
KAVCIC	K12	LAIBACH	---	LJUBLJANA		
K.I.G.	K40	LAIBACH	---	LJUBLJANA		
KTD	K86	LAIBACH	---	LJUBLJANA		
L.F.S.	L37	MARBURG	A12	MARIBOR	√	
MAJDIC	M18	CILLI	A13	CELJE	√	
M.Z.	M150	MARBURG	---	MARIBOR		
P.S.	P62	LAIBACH	A15	LJUBLJANA	√	
R.O.	R67	LAIBACH	A16	LJUBLJANA	√	

Actual and potential Austrian precursors of Slovenian perfins (Cont.)						
Perfin Design	Austrian Perfin Cat#	Austrian Spelling of Slovenian Town	WPC Slovenia Cat#	Slovenian Spelling of Town Name	Scheper's List?	Comments
R.S.	R77	CILLI	A17	CELJE	√	
S.	S8	LAIBACH	---	LJUBLJANA		
St.W.	S161	WEISSENFELS/LA IBACH	---	? / LJUBLJANA		
S&V	S171	LAIBACH	---	LJUBLJANA	√	

Note 1: CMST (monogram) listed in the Austrian perfin catalog and *WPC* is listed by Scheper as STMC (monogr).

Note 2: Eight Austrian perfin types used in Slovenia have yet to be reported in Slovenian stamps as noted above (no check mark in Scheper list column).

Next, I plotted the *World Perfins Catalog* Slovenian types against my findings from the Austrian Catalog. Twelve types matched, although "Dr.F.Z." poses a problem because of the Prag postmark reported in the Austrian catalog. The ten patterns with no equivalent in the *WPC* were either never reported to the *WPC* editor; are from companies which stopped using perfins when Slovenia asserted its independence Austrian control; or are from companies which never perfined Slovenian stamps. Note that the Scheper check-off column closely matches that of the *WPC*. (Dick Scheper is last-year's recipient of the Club's Floyd Walker award

for writing. His fine article in the July/August 2004 issue of *The Perfins Bulletin* organized all of the Yugoslavian perfin areas by historical / political divisions. According to Mr. Scheper, Slovenian stamps were allowed to be used for postage in the whole SHS state after the state was formed in October 29, 1918. The SHS state consisted of Serbs, Croatsians, and Slovenes.

The second chart lists the *WPC* Slovenian perfin types not found in the Austrian catalog. Note that most of these towns were located in Croatia and Serbia.

Types found in Slovenia (<i>WPC</i>) but not in the Asutrian catalog						
Perfin Design	Austrian Cat #	Austrian Spelling of Slovenian Town	WPC Slovenia Cat#	Slovenian Spelling of Town Name	Scheper's List?	Comments
A.L./W.			A2	ZAGREB	√	VARAZDIN (Croatia)
BCU			A3	BEOCIN	√	BEOCIN (?)
EF			A6	?	√	ZAGREB (Croatia)
H.F.S.			A9	ZAGREB	√	ZAGRE (Croatia)B
KB (compressed with K rev)			A10	?	√	NOVI SAD & BEMUN (Serbia)
K.L.			A11	?	√	MARIBOR (Slovakia)
WOVOSTI			A14	ZAGREB	√	ZAGREB (Croatia)
S.H.G.			A18	BEOGRAD	√	BELISCE (Croatia)
W.B.V.			A20	ZAGREB	√	ZAGREB (Croatia)

The third chart shows Scheper's listing of Slovenian perfins missing from both the Austrian catalog and

the *WPC*. Again, these perfins show postmarks mostly outside of Slovenia..

Patterns listed in Scheper's list not found in the Austrain catalog or the <i>WPC</i>						
Perfin Design	Austrian Perfin Cat#	Austrian Spelling of Slovenian Town	WPC Slovenia Cat	Slovenian Spelling of Town Name	Scheper's List	Comments (Area)
CT (monogr)				CELJE	√	SLOVENIA
DC				ANGY BEOSKERK	√	HUNGARY
F.K.				ZAGREB	√	CROATIA
JL (monogr)				BJELOVAR	√	CROATIA
J.T.				NOVI SAD	√	SERBIA
L.H.				SARAJEVO	√	BOSNIA
S.K.				SZEGED	√	HUNGARY
T,K,				ZAGREB	√	CROATIA
Z.H.				?	√	?

It pays to examine postmarks on perfinned stamps.
As a result of Bob's eyes, John's catalog, and Dick's

article, I have added a new page of Austrian precursors to my Slovenian perfin collection

Comments? Further information. Contact me at 9 Memory Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-5601.
